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A HISTORY OF THE IDE FAMILY  
IN THE UNITED STATES



A HISTORY  
*of the*  
IDE FAMILY  
*in the*  
UNITED STATES

From 1635 to the time of their  
settlement in Lehman Township



COMPILED BY  
SILAS C. IDE, HISTORIAN

1916



1620  
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Nicholas Ide, the English ancestor of the American family, died about 1620, leaving a son, Nicholas, who became the ancestor of the American family, and to whom can probably be traced the ancestry of every one in America who is of Ide descent.

The condition of religious affairs in the Seventeenth century is so well known as to need no comment. The widow of Nicholas Ide had married Thomas Bliss. They being of the Puritan faith and longing for a home where they might find freedom to worship God in the way they believed right, naturally turned their thoughts to America, where a band of Pilgrims had already laid the foundation of a new civilization and where some of their friends and relatives had already gone.

In 1635 Thomas Bliss with his wife, formerly the wife of Nicholas Ide, his step-son, Nicholas Ide, and other children came to America. They went to the home of an uncle at Braintree, near Boston.

In 1637 they went to Hartford, remaining there about two years, and from there to Weymouth, where they were connected with the First Congregational Church, under the pastorate of the Rev. Samuel Newman.

Samuel Newman was a man of learning and great ability. He was born at Banbury, England, in May, 1602; graduated at Trinity College, Oxford, in 1620; came to America in 1635. He was the author of the first full English concordance of the Bible.

In 1641 the larger part of the congregation, under the leadership of their pastor, decided to penetrate farther into the wilderness and build a new home for themselves. They purchased of the Indians a tract of land ten miles square called by the Indians, Seekonk, from seeki, black, and onk, goose, a word meaning in the Indian language black goose, so named from the large number of wild geese seen on the river and cove near there in the migrating season.

There about 30 families, including Thomas Bliss, emigrated in 1643 and called the town which they founded Rehoboth.

Nicholas was then just coming into young manhood.

The early history of the Ide family would not be complete without an outline of the early history of Rehoboth, which may be called the cradle of the family, and where our branch of the family remained until the fifth generation.

The name of the town was called by Mr. Newman, Rehoboth, instead of Seekonk, because, he said, "The Lord hath opened a way for us," probably having in mind Gen. 26:22, which reads, "And he called the name of it Rehoboth, and he said, for now the Lord hath made room for us and we shall be fruitful in the land."

The land on which the town was built was purchased of Osamequin, more commonly known as Massasoit, who was chief of the Wampanoags, the tribe of Indians in that vicinity, for ten fathoms of wampum and a coat.

The value of wampum was governed by the price of beaver skins in England, and the price paid for the land was in English money 2 pounds and 10 shillings, equal to \$12.17.

The purchase was made by John Brown and Edward Winslow, who acted as agents for the colony. This business transaction was made at the house of Roger Williams of Providence, he acting as interpreter. The land was a fine level plain, very different from most of the New England country. The town was built in a semi-circle with the opening toward the west, and the meeting house and parsonage in the center.

This circle was called "The Ring of the Town." Each house lot contained from six to twelve acres. The large space thus enclosed was used for pasturing the cattle and was called the "ox pasture." This was probably done to protect the cattle from wild animals and prowling Indians.

At this period they were not considered as belonging to either the Plymouth or Massachusetts colony, but were an independent plantation.

Feeling the need of some system of government, their pastor drew up an agreement which all heads of families signed, and which is still in existence, though some words are not legible. The agreement with signatures is as follows:

"We, whose names are underwritten, being by the providence of God inhabitants of Seekonk, intending there to settle, do covenant and bind ourselves one to another to subject ourselves (torn off) to nine persons. Any five of the nine which shall be chosen by the major part of the inhabitants of this plantation, and we (torn off) by them, and to assist them, according to our ability and estate, and to give timely notice unto them of any such thing as in our conscience may prove dangerous unto the plantation, and this combination to continue until we shall subject ourselves jointly to some other government.

WALTER PALMER  
EDWARD SMITH  
EDWARD BENNETT  
ROBERT TITUS  
ABRAHAM MARTIN  
JOHN MATTHEWS  
EDWARD SALE  
RALPH SHEPHERD  
SAMUEL NEWMAN  
WILLIAM CHEESBOROUGH  
RICHARD WRIGHT  
ROBERT MARTIN  
RICHARD BOWEN  
JOSEPH TORREY  
JAMES CLARK

EPHRAIM HUNT  
PETER HUNT  
WILLIAM SMITH  
JOHN PEREN  
ZACHERY RHODES  
JOB LANE  
ALEX. WINCHESTER  
HENRY SMITH  
STEPHEN PAYNE  
RALPH ALIN  
THOMAS BLISS  
GEORGE KENDRICK  
JOHN ALLIN  
WILLIAM SABIN  
THOMAS COOPER

This was signed July 3, 1643.

December 9, 1644, the first townsmen were chosen and were as follows: Alex. Winchester, Richard Wright, Henry Smith, Ed-

ward Smith, Walter Palmer, William Smith, Stephen Payne, Richard Bowen, Robert Martin.

The town provided for the church. The first public meetings were held under the shade of the trees in suitable weather, and in private houses at other times.

At a meeting held October, 1643, which is the first meeting of the original inhabitants found on record, it was ordered that "those that have lots granted shall fence the end of their lots and their part in the common fence by the 20th of April next or else forfeit their lots to the disposal of the plantation."

At a meeting held January 11, 1644, the land of certain men was declared forfeited for not fencing. Among them was the land of John Holbrook. This land was afterward allotted to Nicholas Ide and was the first land owned by him.

At an early meeting of the proprietors it was voted "that the meeting house shall stand in the midst of the town," and that "no man shall sell his improvements but to such as the town shall accept of." On the 26th of December, 1644, at a meeting of the town, it was ordered that "for time past and for time to come, that all workmen that have or shall work in any common work, or shall work for any particular men, shall have for their wages for each day's work as followeth: For each laborer from the first day of November until the first day of February, 18d (36 cents) a day, and for the rest of the year 20d (40 cents) a day, except the harvest; that is to say, while men are reaping harvests.

On the 26th of February, 1644, at a meeting of the townsmen, it was ordered that "the recording of any man's land in the town book shall be to him and his heirs a sufficient assurance for ever."

The land having been purchased by the proprietors jointly and divided by lot among the individuals, this was necessary in place of a deed.

In 1645 they were assigned to the jurisdiction of the Plymouth court, and were incorporated under the name of Rehoboth.

March 16, 1645, at a general meeting of the town, it was agreed that "all the fences in the general field shall be fenced by the 22d of this present month and whosoever shall be negligent, and not repair or set up his fence by the day above written, shall pay sixpence for every rod deficient, and the damage that shall come to any man by the same."

The same day eight men were chosen to judge the fences, among them being Thomas Bliss, stepfather of Nicholas Ide.

At the same meeting provisions were made for the making and keeping of foot bridges and the highways leading to them. At a general meeting of the town held on October 8, 1646, "it was agreed that the townsmen shall make a rate so much as shall build a meeting house."

At the same time it was agreed that "Whosoever shall kill a wolf or wolves he shall have 20d (40 cents) for every wolf, and to be levied upon the heads of beasts, geese and hogs."

On the 18th of February, 1646, at a meeting of the town, it was agreed to draw lots for the new meadow. Among those drawing lots are Nicholas Ide and Thomas Bliss.

On the 24th of November, 1647, at a meeting of the townsmen, it was agreed that "every inhabitant that hath a team shall work with his team and one man four days in a year at the highway and every inhabitant that hath no team shall find a sufficient laborer four days in a year, being lawfully warned by the supervisor of the highway; but if the supervisor in their discretion shall see more need of laborers than of teams, that those that have a team shall send two laborers instead of a team, being so warned of the supervisor."

We find by the records that on June 13, 1647, Nicholas Ide bought of Ademia Morris, executor for the Robert Morris estate, the Morris house lot.

As Nicholas, oldest child, was born in December of the same year, it is probable that there he began housekeeping.

On the 11th of January, 1648, at a general meeting of the town, it was agreed that "the townsmen shall make a levy for the finishing of the meeting house."

July 12, 1649, at a general town meeting, Mr. Brown and Stephen Payne were chosen to employ a surveyor for the purpose of finding the "nearest and most convenient way between Rehoboth and Dedham," ad istance of 35 or 40 miles, now traveled in less than an hour.

At a town meeting held December 12, 1653, it was voted that the price of corn should be 5s (\$1.22); wheat 5s; rye 4s (97c) and Indian corn 3s (73c), provided that the corn be current and merchantable.

Nicholas had married a daughter of Thomas Bliss, his step-father. In November, 1654, occurred the birth of their third son, Nicholas, Jr., known in later years as Lieutenant Nicholas, who became the second link in the chain of our ancestors.

At a meeting held June 22, 1658, lots were drawn for "the meadows that lie north of the town." In this list is found the name of Nicholas Ide.

On Dec. 9, 1659, it was agreed between the town of Rehoboth and Lieutenant Hunt and William Bucklin that said Lieutenant Hunt and William Bucklin is to shingle the new end of the meeting house, and to be done as sufficiently as the new end of Goodman Payne's house; and they are to furnish nails and to be done by May-day next ensuing. providing that the frame be ready in season in consideration whereof they are to have £8 (\$39.93), to be paid in good merchantable wampum when their work is done.

In 1661 Captain Thomas Willets, empowered by the court of Plymouth, purchased of Wamsitta or Alexander, son and successor of Massasoit, a tract of land 8 miles square lying north of Rehoboth.

This land was, April 10, 1666, granted by the Plymouth government to the inhabitants of Rehoboth and was known as the

Rehoboth North Purchase. It included what is now Attleborough, Mass., and Cumberland, Rhode Island.

April 10, 1668, it was voted that the select townsmen make a rate for the payment of the £8 12s (\$41.85) to Philip or Pometacom, Sachem, brother and successor to Alexander, for the land of the North Purchase. At the same meeting the town chose a committee "to view the meadows that are in the North Purchase and divide them." The committee was as follows: Anthony Perry, Philip Walker, Thomas Wilmot, Nicholas Ide. May 26, 1668, lots were drawn for the meadow land in the North Purchase. Among those drawing land was Nicholas Ide.

On July 5, 1663, occurred the death of their pastor, Rev. Samuel Newman. For 20 years he had been pastor leader and teacher and was much beloved by the people. His body lies in the old burying ground at Seekonk, where about 60 years ago a monument was erected to his memory.

In May, 1665, "Sam, the Indian that keeps the cows," was admitted by the town as an inhabitant. This Indian had for a long while resided in the colony and had looked after the cattle in the common pasture and by his faithfulness won the confidence of the colonists. This is an instance of a man being naturalized on his own native soil by a colony of foreigners.

April 4th, 1669, it was voted that there should be some land broke and fenced about the minister's house for the planting of an orchard and other conveniences, and the townsmen were appointed to see the thing accomplished.

In 1775 began King Philip's war. Rehoboth was in the midst of the struggle. Swansey, where the first blood was shed, was within the bounds of the town of Rehoboth, or as we would say here, the township of Rehoboth, and the capture of Anawan, which practically ended the war, was also in Rehoboth.

During the life of Massasoit the colonists enjoyed the friendship of the Indians. King Philip, however, with a foresight which we would respect in our own rulers, saw in the increasing numbers and strength of the English the doom of the Indian. He therefore resolved to make ad esperate effort to drive out the invaders.

While professing friendship for the English he was secretly making preparation for war. He gave the English quit claim deeds for the lands sold to them by Massasoit and Wamsitta and used the money to buy firearms and ammunition. He made friends with neighboring tribes of Indians who had been enemies for generations. Lesser grievances were forgotten in an effort to secure help against the common enemy. He even went as far as Western New York in an effort to get the help of the Mohawks.

We cannot help feeling that his cause was a just one, and only the fact that he was on the losing side prevented his name from going down through the ages as one of the heroes. Our friends of California are to-day facing the same situation with the Japanese emigrant, and like the savage King Philip, they are resolved not to be crowded out.

In the spring of 1671 the frontier colonists, being suspicious of King Philip's moves, obtained a conference with him at Faunton.

When asked concerning the marks of hostility he claimed they were preparations for defence against the Narragansetts. Being told that he was on more friendly terms with that tribe than usual, and being confronted with evidence of an intended attack on Faunton, Seekonk and other places, he finally confessed the truth of the charges, signed an agreement of submission to the English, delivered to them all of the firearms that he and his men had with them, and agreed to send them all he had.

The latter was only in small part complied with and the preparations for war continued, though with greater caution.

In the spring of 1675 the signs of war were so evident that the people gathered together in fortified houses.

The first loss of life was in Swanscy and vicinity. Several men were killed while attempting to move corn into a garrisoned house. The same day five or six were killed while coming from church where they had met for special service of fasting and prayer. Historians vary as to both date and number of slain, giving for former either as June 22 or June 24, 1675, and the number of slain from six to nine.

In the early summer troops were sent into the Narragansett country, where King Philip was encamped. When attacked he retreated into the depths of a swamp, where the English could not follow. They besieged him there and thought they had him secure, but he made his escape. In crossing Seekonk plain with his men he was discovered by the people of Rehoboth, who gave chase, headed by their pastor, the Rev. Noah Newman, son and successor to the Rev. Samuel Newman. Twelve of Philip's men were killed without any loss on the part of the English, though Philip himself escaped.

The next event of importance occurring within the bounds of Rehoboth was the engagement known as Pierce's Fight. This was one of the most disastrous engagements of the war.

On the 26th of March, 1676, a party of English, under Captain Pierce, was decoyed into an ambuscade and almost the entire party was slain.

The following letter, written by Rev. Noah Newman just after the fight, will give an idea of it. I will give the letter, omitting the name of the slain:

"Rehoboth, March 27, '76.

"Reverend and Dear Sir:

"I received yours dated the 20th of this instant, wherein you gave me a doleful relation of what happened with you and what a distressing sabbath you had passed. I have now, according to words of your own letter, an opportunity to retaliate your account with a relation of what yesterday happened to the great saddening of our hearts, filling us with an awful expectation of what further evils it may be antecedaneous to both respecting ourselves and you.

"Upon the 25th of this instant, Captain Pierce went forth with a small party of his men and Indians with him, and upon discovering the enemy fought him without damage to himself, and judged that he had considerably damned them. Yet he, being of no great force, chose rather to retreat and go out the next morning with a recruit of men; and accordingly he did, taking pilots from us that were acquainted with the ground.

But it pleased the Sovereign God so to order it, that they were enclosed with a great multitude of the enemy, which hath slain fifty-two of our Englishmen and eleven Indians.

Thus, sir, you have a sad account of the continuance of God's displeasure against us; yet still I desire steadfastly to look unto Him, who is not only willing but able to save all such as are fit for his salvation. It is a day of the wicked's triumph, but the sure word of God tells us his triumphing is brief. O, that we may not lengthen it out by our sins. The Lord help us to join issue in our prayers, instantly and earnestly for the healing and helping of our land. Our extremity is God's opportunity.

"This, with our dearest respects to you and Mrs. Cotton, and such sorrowful friends as are with you, I remain,

"Your ever-assured friend,

"NOAH NEWMAN."

March 28, 1676, a party of Indians burned the "Ring of the town." Forty houses and thirty barns were burned. Two dwelling houses and the meeting house escaped. Aug. 12, 1676, King Philip was slain.

August 28, 1676, Anawan, the last of the greatest of King Philip's generals, was captured in the southeastern part of Rehoboth, at a rock now known as Arawan's Rock. He was later executed.

This practically ended the war. In the list of men from Rehoboth taking part in the war is found the name of Nicholas Ide, Jr., who served under Major Bradford, and John Ide, his brother, who took part in the Narragansett Expedition.

We will now take up again the family history:

Nicholas Ide, Jr., or Lieutenant Nicholas, married Mary Ormsby, Dec. 27, 1677. Their second son, Jacob, was born July 4, 1681. On the list of proprietors and inhabitants of Rehoboth in 1689 is found the names of Nicholas Ide, Sr., Nicholas Ide, Jr., and Timothy Ide.

In Vol. 1, Page 5, Proprietary Records of Rehoboth, the name of Nicholas Ide, Jr., appears in a list of nine men appointed April 24, 1691, to settle a dispute on the boundary line north of the meadow.

In the record of deeds of Rehoboth is given records of deeds of land to the amount of 195 acres to Nicholas Jr.

The deeds of land given to Jacob Ide are all in Attleborough, or Rehoboth, North Purchase, and total 43 acres, 106 rods. This brings us down to Nathaniel Ide, father of Nehemiah and Ezra.

He was born in Attleborough, Sept. 13, 1712. His children were also born in Attleborough. Whether or not he lived there all his days we have not been able to learn, as we did not find any records of deeds. As he was twice married and was the father of seventeen children, it is probable that he never owned any land. His first wife was Deborah Barrows.

Ezra was the fifth child of Nathaniel.

In 1799 a company of emigrants came from the New England settlements to Luzerne County. Among them were Nehemiah and three others, Lucy, Stephen and Ezra, being brothers and sister, and believed to be children of Ezra and nephews and niece of Nehemiah. There is still some doubt about the relationship, but we hope to be able to learn beyond doubt. Stephen married Betsy Loudenburg and his children were: First wife—Timothy, Ezra, John, Benjamin, Mariah, Phebe; second wife, George, Harriet, Matilda, Sibyl, Charles, Betsy. He built, in 1807, a frame house which was among the first in the township. Lucy married Otis Allen, son of Samuel Ailen, and was the mother of Curtis, George, Lewis and Otis Allen.

Nehemiah, the seventh child of Nathaniel and Deborah Ide, was born Nov. 3, 1746. We cannot tell at what time he found his way across the state. We next find him at Stockbridge, in Western Massachusetts, where he bought of Asa Bennett, in 1773, twenty-five acres of land, for which he paid £85, equal to \$413.65. During the Revolutionary War he enlisted as a private in Captain Thomas Williams' company of Minute Men, Col. John Paterson's regiment, which marched April 22, 1775, from Stockbridge and West Stockbridge to Cambridge in response to the alarm of April 19, 1775. He served thirteen days, then re-enlisted May 5, under the same officers, and served three months and four days. Mustered out Aug. 1 and returned home in October.

He obtained in payment an order for a bounty coat or its equivalent in money, dated Fort No. 3, Charleston, Oct. 27, 1775; had a continuous service around Boston of nearly four months, including the Battle of Bunker Hill; also sergeant in Captain David Trixley's company, Colonel John Brown's regiment, engaged June 30, 1777, service to July 1777, twenty-seven days.

He was one of the men who after the battle of Trenton were left to keep the campfires burning that the British might not learn of the escape of the American army.

After returning from the war he married Mary Bennett. To them were born in Stockbridge the following children: Sarah, Elijah, Silas, Nathaniel, William, Nehemiah, John and Oliver. The only daughter, Sarah, died in childhood, and the second son, Silas, at the age of seventeen.

There is a tradition that he at one time made a purchase of land in what is now Lake Township, including the Lee pond. This land was purchased of the Connecticut-Susquehanna Co., who hold the land under the state of Connecticut, and when the rival claims between Connecticut and Pennsylvania were finally

settled in favor of Pennsylvania, he lost his land, which was nearly paid for. We have not been able to learn the date of this purchase, but as the rival claims were settled in 1782, it was some time before that date.

On May 1, 1792, he was appointed guardian of Nathan Ide, a minor about 14 years of age, son of his brother. He was under £300 bonds with Ebenezer Tolman as surety.

In February, 1800, he sold to Agrippa Hill, for \$34.37, thirty-four acres of land; also one acre five rods for \$10.64. In February, 1801, he sold to Justus Dickinson, for \$1,333.33 twenty-five acres, all in Stockbridge, Mass.

September 16, 1800, he bought of Lemuel Walker of Hanover Township, Luzerne County, 160 acres of land, situated in Bedford Township (now Lehman), for which he paid \$187. He, with his eldest son, Elijah, came here in the spring of 1799, and remained here until winter and built a log cabin, then returned to Stockbridge. The next spring he brought his family to the new home, making the trip with oxen. The country was still an unbroken wilderness, with Indians still to be seen. The Indians were friendly and would sometimes come into the cabin and look into the boilers hanging on the crane in the fireplace to see what was cooking.

Why did a man almost 60 years old, with a good home in a prosperous country, sell out and take his family into an unbroken forest to begin all over again? Was it the pioneer spirit of his ancestors?

He attended the First Presbyterian Church of Kingston, later called the Church of Wilkes-Barre and Kingston, traveling the nine miles on horseback. He was made deacon of that church in 1803. In 1810, during the pastorate of the Rev. Ard Hoyt, his name appears on a subscription list for the support of the pastor for \$12, and is the largest amount on the list.

In 1814, he was one of the signers of a petition setting off the township of Dallas from Kingston Township. The petition was confirmed in 1817 and the new township named in honor of Alex. James Dallas of Trenton, N. J. He died Feb. 8, 1823. His wife, Mary, died Nov. 16, 1851, aged 97. Their remains lie in the old burying ground at Idetown. He was the first person buried there. Their six sons who grew to manhood all settled in Lehman Township, one, William, remaining on the old homestead, and of the six farms held by them, all except the one owned by Oliver Ide are still owned and occupied by male line descendants. The Oliver Ide farm, near Lehman Center, has now passed out of the family.

#### Children of Nicholas Ide, all born in Rehoboth:

- Nathaniel, born Nov. 11, 1647.
- Mary, born Dec. 10, 1649.
- John, born Dec., 1652.
- Nicholas, born Nov., 1654.
- Martha, born Oct., 1656.
- Elizabeth, born April 6, 1658.

Timothy, born Oct., 1660.  
Dorothy, born May 11, 1662.  
Patience, born May 25, 1664.  
Experience, born Oct., 1665.

Nicholas II (Nicholas) married Mary Ormsby; children born in Rehoboth:

Nathaniel, born Nov. 14, 1678.  
Jacob, born July 4, 1681.  
Martha, born March 18, 1682. or 1683.  
Patience, born May 12, 1686.  
John, born Aug. 27, 1690.

Children of second wife, Elizabeth:

Benjamil, born Dec. 5, 1693.  
Nicholas, born July 21, 1697.

Jacob (Nicholas II, Nicholas I) married Sarah Perry of Rehoboth, Jan. 1, 1707-8; children born in Attleborough:

Sarah, born March 10, 1710.  
Nathaniel, born Sept. 13, 1712.  
Jacob, born Sept. 26, 1723.

Nathaniel IV (Jacob III, Nicholas II, Nicholas I) married Deborah Barrows; children born in Attleborough:

Amy (died in infancy), born June 3, 1737.  
Nathaniel, born Dec. 19, 1738.  
Nathan, born April 8, 1740.  
Martha, born Oct. 31, 1741.  
Ezra, born July 4, 1743.  
Timothy, born April 10, 1745.  
Nehemiah, born Nov. 24, 1746.  
Ichabod, born June 29, 1748.  
Lydia, born April 26, 1750.  
Lucy, born May 7, 1751.  
Ameey or Anne, born Jan. 5, 1752.

Children of second wife, Lydia Wellington:

Deliverance, born April 14, 1753.  
Lucy, born Oct. 15, 1754.  
Elizabeth, born April 8, 1757.  
Martha, born Jan. 16, 1762.  
Nathaniel, born Aug. 8, 1765.  
Ebeneezer, born July 30, 1767.

Nehemiah V (Nathaniel IV, Jacob III, Nicholas II, Nicholas I) married Mary Bennett; children born in Stockbridge:

Sarah, born March 10, 1780.  
Elijah, born Oct. 22, 1781.  
Silas, born Oct. 7, 1783.  
Nathaniel, born Jan. 2, 1786.  
William, born May 19, 1788.  
John, born June 14, 1790.  
Nehemiah, born March 7, 1793.  
Oliver, born March 27, 1798.

Ezra (Nathaniel IV, Jacob III, Nicholas II, Nicholas I):

Lucy, Stephen and Ezra, who came to Luzerne County with Nehemiah, are believed to be the children of Ezra.

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# **FAMILY HISTORY**

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